

## Richland County Youth and Family Council Meeting

May 2, 2024

1:30 p.m.

### Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board/Microsoft TEAMS

The following members were:

**Present:** Joe Devany, Stan Jefferson, Michele Giess, Kevin Kimmel, Wendy Thompson, Lori Bedson, Nikki Harless, Kevin VanMeter, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Darrell Banks

**Absent:** Hannah Crouch, Sherri Ramsey, Dan Varn, Mark Abrams, Lisa Benson

**Administrative Staff Present:** Michelle Miller, Toby Borders, Rico Woods

**Present via Microsoft TEAMS:** Richelle Ettel, Kaye Clark, Shauna Shell, Greg Nickoli, Sherry Gibson, Jessica Caughlin, Terry Carter, Meghan Wheeler

**Guests:** Jean Taddie, Julie Litt, Ashley Leadingham, Amanda Soliven, Whitney Lindsay, Katie Gatten, Jamie Wagers

#### 1. Call to Order & Introductions

President Joe Devany called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and began introductions. A quorum was established with six voting members in attendance.

#### 2. Approval of April 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (April 4, 2024) was made by Kevin Kimmel and seconded by Sherry Branham. The motion passed by voice vote.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report

In Toby Border's absence, Lori Bedson explained there was no Treasurer's/Financial Report this month as this is a month in which the Finance Committee is scheduled to meet after the full Council meeting.

#### 4. Old Business

##### A) Executive Director/FCFC Updates

##### 1) *High School Clothing Referrals*

Michelle stated there have been 27 referrals to the High School Clothing program, with most referrals associated with caregiver issues and/or homelessness.

##### 2) *Service Coordination*

Michelle informed members newly hired Service Coordinator Rico Woods is currently working with nine (9) youth/families, ages 4-17.

##### 3) *Reminders/Upcoming Events*

Michelle reminded Council members of the upcoming NAMI Parent Education Resource Fair on May 4, 2024. Any agency wanting to provide flyers or brochures to be distributed should have the items to Michelle no later than Friday (May 3<sup>rd</sup>).

Michelle reminded members the next R.I.S.E event will be held at the Mansfield-Richland Public Library. Michelle stated the events have been well attended, ranging from 30-35 attendees.

## 5. New Business

### A) Executive Director Updates

#### 1) *Trauma Informed Care*

As part of the Strong Families/Safe Communities grant, Michelle has organized a Trauma Informed Care event for child care providers. The event will take place on June 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM at the NCSC Kehoe Center in Shelby. Buffi Williams, Healing Hearts Counseling Center, will be the keynote speaker.

#### 2) *Pre-Natal – 5 Committee*

Michelle informed members the Pre-Natal – 5 Committee met for the first time in April at the NCSC-OSU Mansfield Campus, Riedl Hall. During the session, committee members developed the following mission statement: “To Develop, streamline, and coordinate the early childhood system of services for Richland County Families to promote the wellness and healthy development of young children”. At this time, the meetings will continue to be held on the third Monday of the month.

According to Michelle, the focus will be in areas related to high ACES scores such as trauma, early literacy concerns, drug exposure, and lead exposure. Wendy Thompson informed Council members the Child Development Center conducts a community assessment every five years as part of a grant process. As a result of the assessment, the Center has been able to compile some very compelling data. Lori Bedson asked if the data is made available to the community or is used internally. Wendy stated the data is used internally but might be able to be made available to the Council.

#### 3) *Proposals – Service Provision*

Michelle reported the Finance Committee approved funding for the following youth services programs during a special Finance Committee meeting.

- a) Newborn Home Visiting – Richland Public Health (\$75,454)
- b) Parent Cafés – YWCA (\$9,300)
- c) Suicide Prevention – CACY (\$8,000)
- d) Youth Leadership institute – Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation (\$10,000)

#### 4) *VOICE Incentive*

Michelle stated the Council has received \$7,812.50 from the state to implement a Youth Advisory Council. Additionally, the funds can be used for youth participant stipends. Michelle asked for volunteers to participate in a Youth Advisory Council workgroup. The following members volunteered to participate: Katie Gatten; Ashley Leadingham; Nikki Harless; Kevin Kimmel; Rico Woods; Sherry Branham; Jean Taddie; and Lori Bedson.

### B) EI Report

Julie Litt reviewed the Early Intervention report with Council members. Julie informed members the program received 100% compliance ratings for timely receipt of service, transition planning and LEA reporting in a recent state review. As of May 1, 2024, EI Service Coordinators are working with 167 children (actively enrolled or referred). Julie warned Council members about “counterfeit car seats” that don’t meet safety standards.

Julie and Michelle shared their concerns regarding a recent meeting with Help Me Grow representatives from the state. According to Julie and Michelle, recent outreach campaigns by the Help Me Grow program were not coordinated through local service providers. Additionally, local service providers were concerned

about waiting lists at the state level that could be addressed locally rather than keeping families waiting for services. Julie and Michelle expressed displeasure at the absence of local community involvement in the Help Me Grow Baby Shower; previous local providers who have been very involved in the baby shower were not involved in the planning process this year.

## 6. Updates/Announcements/Guest Speakers

### *Council Agency Updates*

Katie Gatten informed members the Mansfield-Richland Public Library will be offering "weekend meals" throughout the summer. The bagged meals contain food items for two meals and snacks. The "weekend meals" will be available Thursday – Sunday. The Library is partnering with the Cleveland Food Bank to provide the meals.

Wendy Thompson informed members child care vouchers are available to help those not meeting Title XX child care eligibility. Lori Bedson added the program should greatly benefit grandparents and kinship caregivers. Lori explained, if a family applies for child care and is denied due to being over the income limit (over 145% of the Federal Poverty Level), the family may be eligible for the voucher program. Eligibility for the voucher program is between 146% and 200% of the FPL and is retroactive to April 1st. Under the voucher program, the state will cover the child care costs at the current market rate used for publicly funded child care with the expectation providers will charge the family a copayment that is equivalent to an amount not more than 9% of the family's income. However, the state will not monitor whether the copayments are being paid. Lori explained information has been presented to counties within the past few weeks; however, no guidance has been issued at this time.

Jean Taddie stated the Regional Planning Commission has submitted a transportation planning grant to help address transportation issues in the community. Additionally, she stated she will be attending a RCDG meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss workforce transportation needs with area employers. Jean added a reminder that buses can be used as "vehicles" of advertising; advertisements can be placed on the inside and outside of the buses.

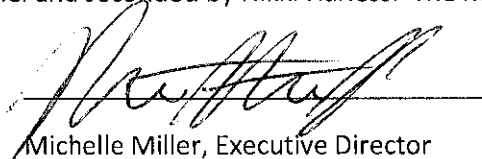
Ashley Leadingham introduced CHAP's new Referral and Enrollment Coordinator: Alisha White, to Council members.

### **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kevin Kimmel and seconded by Nikki Harless. The motion passed by a voice vote.



Joe Devany, Council President



Michelle Miller, Executive Director